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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Erdogan: London Bombings an Attack Against Civilization,
Humanity - Milliyet
Al-Qaeda Strikes in London - Milliyet
It's Al-Qaeda Again - Sabah
Al-Qaeda Related Group Claims London Bombings - Hurriyet
Terror Strikes London: Which City Next? - Aksam
Britain's September 11: 37 Killed, 700 Wounded - Vatan
G-8 Stands Unified Against Terror - Hurriyet
Blair: Terrorists Will Not Succeed - Milliyet
Bush: US is on Alert - Sabah
Londoners Showed no Panic - Vatan
Terrorists Kill Egypt's Envoy to Iraq - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Gul: We Share the Pain of Friends and Allies, the British
People - Radikal
Qaida Strikes London - Radikal
Terror Shows Its Ugly Face in London - Zaman
Horror in London: 37 Killed - Yeni Safak
G-8 Denounces 'Barbaric' Attacks in London - Radikal
Europe United in Support of Britain - Zaman
British Police Begin Hunt for Terrorists - Cumhuriyet
British Police: Matching Islam with Terrorism Would be Wrong
- Zaman
Europe, US Go on Terror Alert - Cumhuriyet
Egyptian Ambassador Killed in Baghdad - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Turkish Leaders on London Bombings: Prime Minister Erdogan told the press after participating in the Sun Valley conferences in Idaho yesterday that there should be a joint struggle against terrorism, and that Turkey stood ready to take part in such a joint initiative. Erdogan denounced yesterday's terrorist bomb attacks in London as an 'assault against civilization and humanity,' and cautioned politicians against becoming a 'tool' for terrorists' propaganda efforts. 'It would be wrong to say that this or that terrorist organization did this attack before getting clear evidence. This is the terrorists' aim: to be able to spread propaganda all the time,' he said. He said that terrorism did not have a religion, nation, or race, and that it may hit anyone anywhere, at any time. 'It is necessary to display solidarity on this issue. We must not forget that there is a cause-effect relation and that we must eliminate the causes of terrorism.' Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul denounced as terrorist acts a series of blasts that hit London, and pledged Turkey's cooperation in the fight against terrorism. 'We hope that the death toll will not be high,' Gul said. He noted that, having seen since the September 11 attacks how dangerous terrorism is, the world is now cooperating to counter this threat. Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu expressed condolences and condemned the London attacks in a message to British Home Secretary Charles Clarke. State Minister Nimet Cubukcu sent a message to British Ambassador to Turkey Peter Westmacott, strongly condemning the attacks in London, underlining the need for an effective cooperation against terrorism. Opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Deniz Baykal sent British Prime Minister Tony Blair a message wishing 'quick recovery,' which said that countries could succeed in the fight against terrorism only by international solidarity and cooperation. The Istanbul Bar and far-rightist Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) also strongly condemned the London attacks and called for international cooperation to counter terrorism.

Mainstream Turkish papers agree that bomb attacks in London yesterday marked a 'September 11 for Britain.' A commentary in the liberal/intellectual "Radikal" said: 'Only a few days ago, thousands gathered in London to support efforts to

`make poverty history.' But today, neither poverty, nor starvation in Africa, nor global warming are on the agenda any more. All those efforts have fallen victim to a cowardly bomb attack by a handful of barbarians.' Conservative/opinion maker "Zaman" is concerned that the London bombings may adversely affect Turkey's EU drive, saying that Turkey will be negatively affected if the British nation begins to assume an anti-Islamic position. Another commentary in the pro-Islamic "Yeni Safak" says that 9/11 had been a big blow to the image of Islam around the world. `Muslims, particularly those living in western countries, have been injured in such attacks. Those striking in London yesterday probably did not directly aim to hurt Muslims, but their attack will leave us sleepless, despite our strong condemnation of such atrocities,' says a commentary.

US, EU Denounce Terrorist Attacks in Turkey: Turkish papers report US State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack as condemning the bomb attacks against a Turkish train which killed six in the mainly Kurdish eastern province Bingol last weekend. `We condemn all acts of terrorisms and our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the victims and those who were injured in these attacks,' McCormack said. Meanwhile, EU Commission Representative Hansjorg Kretschmer told the EU-Turkey consultation meetings in Istanbul on Thursday that terrorist activities in southeast Turkey were unacceptable. Social and economic progress in the southeast is of critical importance for Turkey, Kretschmer said, advising Ankara to develop a strategy to achieve that goal.

MFA Condemns Killing of Egypt's Iraq Envoy: A Foreign Ministry statement condemned on Thursday the terrorist attacks against foreign diplomats in Iraq. The statement expressed Turkey's condolences to the Egyptian nation over the killing of Egypt's envoy in Baghdad, and urged the Iraqi government to find and take to court those responsible as soon as possible.

OSCE on Shortcomings of New Turkish Penal Code: The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, praised Ankara for introducing important changes to the new Turkish Penal Code, but added that the amendments do not sufficiently eliminate threats to freedom of expression and to a free press. Haraszti told the press in Vienna on Thursday that he observed three major areas where media freedom remains endangered in Turkey: the right of journalists to report on public-interest issues is not secured; restrictions on access and disclosure of information have not been lifted; and defamation and insult provisions remain a criminal rather than a civil offence, thereby leaving at risk the free discussion of public affairs. Haraszti expressed hope that modernization of the Turkish Penal Code would continue improving freedom of public scrutiny, while removing all provisions that promote self-censorship.

Security Operations Against PKK Continue: Security forces killed 2 terrorists and arrested 2 others on Thursday during operations against PKK militants in the mainly Kurdish provinces of Mardin and Tunceli, sources told papers. The Mardin governor's office said 25 kg of C-4 explosives had been seized during operations. Meanwhile, a woman terrorist was reportedly killed in the rural areas the Tunceli province yesterday.

Bomb Attack Against Train in East Turkey: A freight train traveling between Turkey's eastern cities of Erzincan and Erzurum was derailed when a remotely controlled mine exploded on Thursday, papers report. The Erzurum governor's office said there were no casualties in the explosion, which overturned six train cars. "Hurriyet" claims that the attack actually targeted a passenger train from Istanbul; that train, with 334 passengers aboard, was saved by being 50 minutes late.

EDITORIAL OPINION: The London Bombings

"Damn!"

Erdal Safak observed in the mass appeal "Sabah" (7/8): "The London incidents contain all the elements of Al-Qaeda terrorism: a massacre, a psychological shock, and horrific visuals for the media. It is just like what happened in Madrid, Istanbul, and New York. . All sensible people must worry about the London bombings. This event will have unpredictable consequences in many areas -- from diplomacy to security. The London attack will also be the start of a new period for the EU, which has so far failed to produce joint policies against terrorism."

"The Eclipse of the Mind"

Fehmi Korum argued in the pro-government/Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak" (7/8): "The London attacks prove that the global fight against terrorism has not been effective in

confining terrorist activity. The London terror has also invalidated the latest argument that Washington has been using to justify its presence in Iraq. The intervention in Iraq has not helped to minimize terrorism. On the contrary, it has made the entire world vulnerable to the terrorist threat. . Now it is important what kind of measures the US and the UK will implement in the fight against terrorism. Tougher measures are expected. We could see people being asked to make more sacrifices on issues of basic freedom. In fact, such measures will not bring a solution. An analysis of events since 9/11 should be done. A proper examination will provide the grounds for taking measures to eliminate the social, political, and economic reasons behind the terror. . Yet what we have been seeing is altogether different. Rationality and morality are missing in the midst of the violence. Terror is a result of the mind being eclipsed by other forces. It is impossible not to feel pessimistic when we see the direction in which the world is heading."

"The Never Ending War"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (7/8): "It is obvious that the main purpose of the London attack was to punish Prime Minister Blair for joining in President Bush's occupation of Iraq. It is well known that Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations connected with it consider the UK as an enemy similar to the US. These groups have long threatened that one day they would take revenge against the UK. The result of the terrorist attack in London is not going to be any different from those carried out in New York, Madrid, and other cities. It will only create more tension and more violence. But it is very doubtful that the terrorists will take any lessons out of these attacks. Most likely, their morale has been boosted by their 'victory' in London! This means that terrorism will continue for a long time to come."

"Terror Hits London"

Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative "Turkiye" (7/8): "Are Europe and the US going to change their stance after the terrible terrorist attack in London? Nothing is going to change. Some countries will continue to provide support and shelter to the Kurdish PKK and the Armenian Tashnak organizations. It is a shame of humanity for Belgium not to extradite, but rather to shelter, the murderer terrorist Fehriye Erdal. Fighting against terrorism with this kind of mentality will ensure that the violence goes on for many years. Al-Qaeda and the other terrorist organizations are also trying to damage western tourism and the economy, and they have shown the ability to attack in any country at the most unexpected time. Given the current mentality that differentiates terrorism according to its location and nationality, it will be extremely difficult to eliminate terror. The world, which had freed itself from the communist threat, has entered the third millennium under the shadow of the evil of terrorism."

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